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United Nations

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its thirty-third session

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NOTE

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CONTENTS

Chapter		Paragraphs	Page
	ABBREVIATIONS		vii
	PART ONE		
	REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION ON THE FIRST PART OF ITS THIRTY-THIRD SESSION, HELD AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS FROM 10 TO 14 MAY 1993		
I.	ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION	1 - 10	2
	A. Agenda	2 - 3	2
	B. Election of officers	4	2
	C. Attendance	5 - 8	2
	D. Documentation	9	3
	E. Adoption of the report of the Committee	10	3
II.	PROGRAMME QUESTIONS	11 - 35	4
	Evaluation	11 - 35	4
	1. Evaluation process	12 - 13	4
	2. Human rights	14 - 16	4
	3. Human settlements	17 - 19	5
	4. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	20 - 23	6
	5. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	24 - 29	6
	6. Topics for future in-depth evaluation	30 - 35	8
III.	COORDINATION QUESTIONS	36 - 47	10
	Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination		
IV.	REPORTS OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT	48 - 57	12

CONTENTS (continued)

		Paragraphs	Page
	Annexes		
I.	Agenda for the thirty-third session of the Committee		13
II.	List of documents before the Committee at the first part of its thirty-third session		14
	PART TWO		
	REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION ON THE SECOND PART OF ITS THIRTY-THIRD SESSION, HELD AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS FROM 6 TO 22 OCTOBER 1993		
I.	ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION	1 - 10	16
	A. Agenda	4	16
	B. Attendance	5 - 8	16
	C. Documentation	9	17
	D. Adoption of the report of the Committee	10	17
II.	REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS	11 - 21	18
	A. Restructuring and efficiency of the Secretariat ..	11 - 16	18
	B. Review of the procedures for the provision of statements of programme budget implications and for the use and operation of the contingency fund; Methodology for estimates for preventive diplomacy and peacemaking in future budget outlines and programme budgets	17 - 21	19
III.	PROGRAMME QUESTIONS	22 - 246	20
	A. Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995	22 - 222	20
	Section 1. Overall policy-making, direction and coordination	44 - 50	22
	Section 2. United Nations integrated offices	51 - 52	23
	Section 3. Political affairs	53 - 73	23
	Section 4. Peace-keeping operations and special missions	74 - 79	26
	Section 7. Legal activities	80 - 83	27

CONTENTS (continued)

		Paragraphs	Page
Section 8.	Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development	84 - 93	28
Section 9.	Department of Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis	94 - 97	29
Section 10.	Department of Development Support and Management Services	98 - 105	29
Section 11A.	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	106 - 115	30
Section 11B.	International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/GATT)	116 - 119	31
Section 12A.	United Nations Environment Programme	120 - 127	32
Section 12B.	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)	128 - 131	33
Section 13.	Crime control	132 - 133	33
Section 14.	International drug control	134 - 136	34
Section 15.	Economic Commission for Africa	137 - 145	34
Section 16.	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	146 - 150	35
Section 17.	Economic Commission for Europe	151 - 157	36
Section 18.	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	158 - 162	37
Section 19.	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	163 - 167	37
Section 20.	Regular programme of technical cooperation	168 - 174	38
Section 21.	Human rights	175 - 186	38
Section 22A.	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	187 - 192	40
Section 22B.	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	193 - 198	41
Section 23.	Department of Humanitarian Affairs .	199 - 206	41
Section 24.	Department of Public Information ...	207 - 222	42

CONTENTS (continued)

		Paragraphs	Page
	B. Prototype of a new format of the medium-term plan	223 - 238	44
	C. Accountability and responsibility of programme managers in the United Nations	239 - 246	46
IV.	COORDINATION QUESTIONS	247 - 251	48
	Preparations for the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination	247 - 251	48
V.	CONSIDERATION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE	252 - 254	49

Annexes

I.	Agenda for the second part of the thirty-third session of the Committee	51
II.	List of documents before the Committee at the second part of its thirty-third session	52

ABBREVIATIONS

ACABQ	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
ACC	Administrative Committee on Coordination
CPC	Committee for Programme and Coordination
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ITC	International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/GATT)
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Part One

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION ON THE FIRST PART OF ITS THIRTY-THIRD SESSION*

Held at United Nations Headquarters
from 10 to 14 May 1993

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* Originally issued in mimeographed form under the symbol A/48/16 (Part I).

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1. The Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) held an organizational session (1st and 2nd meetings) at United Nations Headquarters on 8 April and 5 May 1993, and the first part of its thirty-third session at Headquarters from 10 to 14 May 1993. It held nine meetings (3rd to 11th meetings) and a number of informal meetings.

A. Agenda

2. The agenda for the thirty-third session, adopted by the Committee at its 1st meeting, is reproduced in annex I below.

3. In adopting the agenda, the Committee, in accordance with the decision taken at its organizational session for 1993, decided to consider, at its thirty-third session, the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) entitled "United Nations system cooperation with multilateral financial institutions. Part I: Performance and innovation challenges" (E/1993/18) and "Part II: Examples of fresh approaches" (E/1993/18/Add.1), as well as the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) thereon (E/1993/18/Add.2).

B. Election of officers

4. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 8 April 1993 and 5 May 1993, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman: Mr. T. P. Sreenivasan (India)

Vice-Chairmen: Ms. Agnes Y. Aggrey-Orleans (Ghana)
Mr. Jan Woroniecki (Poland)
Mr. Harold Robertson (Trinidad and Tobago)

Rapporteur: Mr. Wolfgang Stöckl (Germany)

C. Attendance

5. The following States members of the Committee were represented:

Bahamas
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burundi
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
Egypt
France
Germany
Ghana
India
Indonesia
Iraq
Italy
Japan
Kenya
Netherlands
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan
Poland
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Uganda
Ukraine
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Uruguay
Zambia

6. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers:

Argentina	Ireland
Australia	Mexico
Austria	Morocco
Bangladesh	Namibia
Canada	Portugal
Cuba	Sweden
Hungary	Tunisia

7. The following specialized agencies were represented:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

International Labour Organization

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

World Bank

8. Also present at the session were the Under-Secretary-General of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, the Controller and other senior officials of the United Nations Secretariat, including representatives of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Finance, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). At the invitation of the Committee, Mr. Richard Hennes, Inspector of the Joint Inspection Unit, also participated in its work.

D. Documentation

9. The list of documents before the Committee at its thirty-third session is contained in annex II below.

E. Adoption of the report of the Committee

10. At its 11th meeting, on 14 May 1993, the Committee adopted the draft report on the first part of its thirty-third session (E/AC.51/1993/L.3 and Add.1-8).

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Evaluation

11. At its 4th through 8th meetings, on 10 to 12 May 1993, the Committee considered five reports on evaluation.

1. Evaluation process

Recommendations

12. The Committee requested the Secretary-General to include proposals on the phases of the evaluation process, the use of evaluation as an instrument of improving management and programme planning, and the development of achievement indicators, in the report on evaluation to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session.

13. The Committee made the following recommendations in order to increase the usefulness of evaluation:

(a) Future in-depth evaluation reports and the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on them should be transmitted by the Secretariat to the relevant specialized intergovernmental bodies. The Chairman of CPC will then request the Chairmen of the relevant bodies to provide CPC with information on action taken by those bodies regarding CPC recommendations on the evaluations;

(b) In order for the triennial evaluation review to help units concerned to meet new challenges, future triennial reviews should be expanded, as needed, to address a small number of new relevant issues in addition to their primary purpose of assessing the extent of implementation of CPC recommendations made three years before. If such needs arise, the Secretariat should obtain the approval of CPC one year prior to the scheduled CPC review of the relevant triennial review report.

2. Human rights

14. At its 4th through 6th meetings, held on 10 and 11 May 1993, the Committee considered the follow-up evaluation on the human rights programme (E/AC.51/1993/5).

Discussion

15. A number of delegations felt that the report met the requirements set for it. A number of delegations regretted that the database on human rights and the task force on inter-agency coordination, recommended by the in-depth evaluation, had not yet been established. A number of delegations stated that this database on human rights source material should be guided by the principles of indivisibility of all human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. A number of delegations also stressed that the data collection should be carried out in an objective, impartial and non-selective manner. A number of delegations also stated that there should be evaluation of sources and verification of data with the countries concerned. A number of

delegations disagreed with that view. A number of delegations felt that requests for specific funds for the human rights database should be included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. Others noted that the possibility of a voluntary contribution to the database should not be necessarily excluded. A number of delegations expressed concern about the financial constraints faced by the Centre, and noted that the demands on the United Nations in this area had increased greatly in recent years. They considered that the human rights programme should be ensured adequate resources from within the existing regular budget of the Organization to fulfil its mandate. A number of delegations recommended that the increased resource requirements for the Centre should also be considered in the framework of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/213 of 16 December 1992. A number of delegations expressed concern at the lack of resources devoted to subprogramme 2, on the Elimination and prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities and vulnerable groups, and considered that this work should be strengthened. A number of delegations also called for increased staff and resources to deal with the problem of the new emerging kinds of racial discrimination and xenophobia. A number of delegations underlined the need for the provision of improved support and assistance by the Centre to the Rapporteurs and experts in their carrying out of assignments. A number of delegations expressed concern with the number of different procedures for the treatment of human rights violations and expressed the wish that those procedures could be simplified and less numerous. A number of delegations welcomed the collaboration between UNDP and the Centre to explore further linkages between human rights and development. A number of delegations stressed that there should be no human rights conditionality in development cooperation.

Conclusions and recommendations

16. The Committee endorsed the recommendations contained in paragraphs 69, 71, 72, 73 and 74. The Committee took note of the recommendation contained in paragraph 70.

3. Human settlements

17. At its 4th through 6th meetings, on 10 and 11 May 1993, the Committee considered the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its thirtieth session on the evaluation of the major programme on human settlements (E/AC.51/1993/4).

Discussion

18. A number of delegations felt that the report met the requirements set for it. A number of delegations regretted the poor implementation of several of the recommendations of CPC by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the units concerned with human settlements in the regional commissions, in particular, recommendations concerning coordination. The same delegations noted that financial constraints had been mentioned as the reason for this low level of implementation. A number of delegations expressed the view that, during periods of financial constraint coordination in programme planning was critical to ensure efficient use of resources by avoiding the duplication of work. A number of delegations stated that the main cause for the low level of implementation appeared to be more of a lack of will than lack of resources.

Recommendations

19. The Committee endorsed the recommendations contained in paragraphs 55, 56, 57 and 58 of the report, on the understanding that, for the recommendation contained in paragraph 56, the non-governmental organizations to be consulted in the preparatory stages of the programme planning process should be those relevant non-governmental organizations having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or those accredited to the 1994 World Conference on Human Settlements and in accordance with the established procedure.

4. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

20. At its 8th meeting, held on 11 May 1993, the Committee considered the progress report on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (E/AC.51/1993/3).

Discussion

21. The representative of UNRWA, in his introductory statement, noted that an objective evaluation of the success or failure of UNRWA in implementing its programmes could not be adequately performed without taking into account the political context within which it operated and the ways in which that affected the programme and its delivery.

22. A number of delegations felt that the report was a comprehensive review of the whole programme and therefore met the requirements set for it. Several delegations expressed concern over the financing of UNRWA and felt it was necessary to enlarge the donor base and to study ways by which the Agency could become more solvent. A number of delegations reiterated that mandate of UNRWA remains as set out in General Assembly resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948.

Conclusions and recommendations

23. The Committee took note of the progress report, which met the requirements set for it, and decided that no further action in respect of the in-depth evaluation of UNRWA was necessary.

5. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

24. At its 7th meeting, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on international protection of and assistance to refugees: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (E/AC.51/1993/2).

Discussion

25. In the course of the debate, delegations made observations on the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1. A number of delegations recalled that, at the request of the Secretary-General, and pursuant to many General Assembly resolutions, UNHCR had extended its activities, on an ad hoc basis, to cover situations involving internally displaced populations. Other delegations had misgivings concerning the overstretching of the capacity of UNHCR and the political aspects of extending its activities beyond its mandate; they stressed the necessity of conforming to the mandate and to agreements reached between UNHCR and Governments. One delegation stressed the need for more voluntary funding if UNHCR were to undertake additional commitments.

Recommendation 3. One delegation felt that this recommendation should also propose a memorandum of understanding by the Centre for Human Rights and UNHCR to cover all aspects of their collaboration. A number of delegations stated that recommendation 3 was beyond the mandate of UNHCR, and also did not have a legislative mandate from the General Assembly of the United Nations and the Commission on Human Rights.

Recommendation 4. One delegation felt that this recommendation should conclude by stating that UNHCR should withdraw only after the objectives of the programme had been achieved.

Recommendation 6. A number of delegations stated that the following should be added in line 2 of recommendation 6 after "roster of non-governmental organizations active in refugee matters": "and in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council".

Recommendation 8. A number of delegations stated that recommendation 8 was beyond the scope of the mandate of UNHCR and of General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, which was related to natural disasters. The delegations also stressed the need to retain the apolitical nature of the activities of UNHCR, as mandated by its statute. A number of delegations welcomed this recommendation and, in this regard, emphasized the importance of close cooperation between UNHCR and the Centre for Human Rights.

Recommendation 9. One delegation considered that the recommendation should also state that a single operational agency should be assigned responsibility for ensuring that all sectors are covered in inter-agency relief operations, and UNHCR should be this lead agency.

Recommendation 10. A number of delegations expressed the view that the funding for emergency and preparedness response should be included in the provisions made for the general programmes of UNHCR and not be the subject of special appeals.

Recommendation 21. A number of delegations considered that insufficient attention was being given to the important area of staff media training.

Recommendation 26. A number of delegations considered that, given the current financial climate, the mobilization of additional voluntary contributions was crucial.

Recommendation 27. A number of delegations stated that multi-year planning should not be overambitious.

Recommendation 28. A number of delegations considered that the request for additional staff rejected by the General Assembly in the context of the

1992-1993 budget should be placed before the General Assembly again in the 1994-1995 budget.

Recommendation 31. A number of delegations considered that a balanced geographical representation should be taken into account in any strategy for recruitment of UNHCR staff.

26. One delegation noted that, in the context of the system-wide activities addressing the problems of refugees, a more clear-cut focus was required on providing assistance to the countries of asylum experiencing serious economic difficulties.

Conclusions and recommendations

27. The Committee commended the Secretariat for the excellent quality of the report.

28. Being in general agreement with the main thrust of the report, namely, to strengthen the functions of protection and search for durable solutions and to delegate further operational responsibility for assistance and, bearing in mind the necessity that UNHCR should function within its mandate, particularly in the context of recommendations 1, 3 and 8, the Committee endorsed the report and its recommendations.

29. The Committee decided that the report and the section of the CPC report dealing with it should be transmitted to the Executive Committee of UNHCR for its consideration and action.

6. Topics for future in-depth evaluation

30. At its 4th, 5th and 6th meetings, held on 10 and 11 May 1993, the Committee considered the note by the Secretariat on topics for future in-depth evaluations (E/AC.51/1993/6).

Discussion

31. A number of delegations found the report useful as a basis for their decisions. A number of delegations stated that the considerations to be borne in mind in determining topics for future in-depth evaluations contained in paragraph 8 of the report should be broadened to include programmes generally considered to have been unsuccessful.

32. A number of delegations expressed their preferences regarding programmes to be evaluated in the period 1996-2000. A number of delegations endorsed the proposal to evaluate peace-keeping activities. A number of delegations considered that such an evaluation could be undertaken in the form of a case-study focusing on one or two operations and drawing general lessons. Other delegations considered it more feasible to concentrate on the managerial aspects of peace-keeping operations. A number of delegations also agreed to evaluating the programme on environment, but considered that the focus should be broadened to include the developmental aspects of the programme.

33. A number of delegations proposed evaluating the work of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs. A number of delegations proposed evaluating the programme on Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development.

34. One delegation observed that the only decision required by the Committee was the selection of the programme to be evaluated in 1996 and that for the following years, an indicative list could be drawn up, leaving the final decision for subsequent sessions.

Recommendations

35. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that the following programmes be subjected to in-depth evaluation, scheduled as follows:

1994: Social development.

1995: Peace-keeping operations: start-up phase.

1996: Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development.

1997: Department of Humanitarian Affairs/Environment.

III. COORDINATION QUESTIONS

Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination

36. At its 3rd, 8th and 9th meetings on 10, 12 and 13 May 1993, the Committee considered coordination questions under agenda item 5. It had before it parts two and three of the annual overview report of ACC (E/1993/47/Add.1 and 2).

Discussion

37. The Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development made a statement on the actions taken by ACC at its first regular session of 1993. A number of delegations expressed their appreciation to the Under-Secretary-General for the useful information provided by him and made comments and suggestions on specific aspects of the annual overview report of ACC for 1992.

38. There was a debate on the timeliness and quality of the documentation. Many delegations expressed the view that, given the delay and inadequacy of documentation, as well as the inaccuracies and discrepancies therein, the Committee was not in a position to hold a substantive debate and make recommendations on the substance of the issues or to commend the report to the Economic and Social Council.

39. Some delegations suggested that, in the absence of a substantive debate, the Committee should discuss its own role in the area of coordination, in particular vis-à-vis the Economic and Social Council. Other delegations, however, were of the view that such a discussion had already taken place quite recently and that it was not on the agenda of the current session.

40. A number of delegations noted that ACC had been responsive and forward looking in adapting its subsidiary machinery to the changing requirements. In particular, they appreciated the attention being paid by ACC to the follow-up to UNCED, coordination of humanitarian assistance and its continuum to rehabilitation and development, and the assistance by the United Nations system to the countries invoking Article 50 of the United Nations Charter and to the countries with economies in transition.

41. The representative of the Secretariat stated that the annual overview report of ACC had been delayed on an exceptional basis this year with the hope that the documentation might reflect the results of the review undertaken by ACC at its recently concluded first regular session of 1993, of its own role and functioning, the actions taken on the follow-up to UNCED and on the coordination of humanitarian assistance. The representative of the Secretariat stated that such a situation would be avoided in the future and that it was intended that the annual overview report would cover activities undertaken by ACC during the previous calendar year. The representative of the Secretariat further stated that any inaccuracies and discrepancies in the present report would be corrected in a revised report or a corrigendum.

Conclusions and recommendations

42. The Committee reiterated that its role in assisting the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in the coordination of the United Nations system continued to be based on Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) and remained valid.

43. The Committee regretted the late submission of the documentation and its inadequacy since a full report on ACC activities, particularly at its first regular session of 1993, was not made available to the Committee, but was sent directly to the Economic and Social Council. The statement of the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, which provided useful information on the most recent activities of ACC, was not considered to be a substitute for the annual overview report on the activities of ACC in the previous calendar year, nor did the Committee consider that it made up for the inadequacy of the documentation. The Committee requested ACC to ensure that, in future years, it would be provided with up-to-date, appropriate and timely documentation.

44. The Committee expressed dismay at the statements, specifically in sections I.B.3, III.A and B of E/1993/47/Add.1 dealing particularly with personnel and general administrative questions and with financial issues. The inaccuracies and discrepancies contained in those statements conveyed the erroneous and misleading impression that a number of Governments had neglected to honour their financial obligations to the organizations of the system. Furthermore, the language relating to personnel and administrative questions, as well as to the "common country strategy" and the "integrated offices" did not reflect accurately the relevant legislative mandates of the General Assembly. In view of all these difficulties, the Committee was unable to examine the report adequately. The Committee noted the assurances given by the Secretariat that any inaccuracies and discrepancies in the present report would be corrected in an appropriate manner and in accordance with the views expressed by the Committee prior to the substantive session of 1993 of the Economic and Social Council.

45. The Committee noted with appreciation the efforts of the Secretary-General, including in his capacity as Chairman of ACC, in mobilizing and coordinating assistance to countries invoking Article 50 of the Charter and requested him to continue those efforts and report on the outcome thereof in the next overview report of ACC.

46. The Committee stressed that all system-wide activities undertaken by subsidiary bodies of ACC which have been abolished, particularly those relating to science and technology for development, new and renewable sources of energy and the least developed countries, should continue to be coordinated by the new subsidiary machinery.

47. The Committee again stressed the need for adequate preparation and timely submission of documentation for the twenty-seventh series of the Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC. The Committee decided to keep this item open to enable it to consider it in the preparations for the twenty-seventh series of the Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC at its resumed thirty-third session.

IV. REPORTS OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

48. At its 10th meeting, the Committee considered the Report of the Joint Inspection Unit "United Nations system cooperation with multilateral financial institutions" (E/1993/18 and Add.1) and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (E/1993/18/Add.2).

Discussion

49. The Committee's discussion focused on two of the report's main conclusions: (a) that the United Nations system organizations must increase the competitiveness of their programmes if they wish to build effective cooperation relationships with the multilateral financial institutions, and (b) that coordination and cooperation between those entities depended on advantage to both sides which was also mutually perceived as such. General support was expressed for those conclusions.

50. A number of delegations regretted that the report which had been published at Geneva in January 1992 and translated at Geneva by April 1992, had not been issued as a United Nations document until February 1993. In that connection, some delegations believed that an updated addendum would have been useful.

51. Comments on the views of ACC ranged from some agreement with the allegations that the report was too general and that it omitted recent information to severe criticism of the ACC comments as being defensive and self-serving.

52. There was considerable support expressed for the view that more emphasis in the report should have been placed on policy coordination. On the other hand, it was noted that demonstration of competence through operational performance was often the most effective route to policy coordination.

53. Most delegations considered the 10 factors identified by the Inspectors helpful in developing successful cooperative relationships.

54. Some delegations agreed with the charge by ACC of "bank bias" (E/1993/18/Add.2, para. 8), whereas others endorsed the Inspectors' opinion that it was the United Nations system organizations which would have to make the major effort if they wished to develop effective cooperative relationships with the multilateral financial institutions.

Conclusions and recommendations

55. The Committee considered the study to have been useful in stimulating a productive discussion of the serious problem of coordination.

56. The Committee viewed the report favourably and anticipated further discussion of it in the Economic and Social Council.

57. The Committee endorsed the report's recommendations and commended them to the attention of governing bodies and executive heads of the United Nations system organizations for their consideration.

ANNEX I

Agenda for the thirty-third session of the Committee

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

3. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

4. Programme questions:

   (a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995;

   (b) Prototype of a new format of the medium-term plan;

   (c) Establishment of a system of responsibility and accountability of programme managers of the United Nations;

   (d) Evaluation.

5. Coordination questions:

   Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

6. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.

7. Provisional agenda for the thirty-fourth session of the Committee.

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirty-third session.

ANNEX II

List of documents before the Committee at the first part of its thirty-third session

E/AC.51/1993/2	Report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on the international protection of and assistance to refugees: UNHCR
E/AC.51/1993/3	Progress report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of UNRWA
E/AC.51/1993/4	Report of the Secretary-General on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirtieth session on the evaluation of the major programme on human settlements
E/AC.51/1993/5	Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up on the human rights programme
E/AC.51/1993/6	Note by the Secretariat on topics for future in-depth evaluations
E/1993/18	United Nations system cooperation with multilateral financial institutions. Part I: Performance and innovation challenges
E/1993/18/Add.1	United Nations system cooperation with multilateral financial institutions. Part II: Examples of fresh approaches
E/1993/18/Add.2	United Nations system cooperation with multilateral financial institutions. Comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination
E/1993/47/Add.1 and 2	Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1992

Part Two

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION ON THE SECOND PART OF ITS THIRTY-THIRD SESSION*

Held at United Nations Headquarters from
6 to 22 October 1993

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* Originally issued in mimeographed form under the symbol A/48/16 (Part II).

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1. The Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) held the second part of its thirty-third session at United Nations Headquarters from 6 to 22 October 1993. It held 23 meetings (12th-34th meetings).

2. The Committee expressed its dissatisfaction about the late submission of documentation and about the fact that the resumed session of CPC was held concurrently with the forty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly. This considerably hampered the work of the Committee and seriously impaired the preparation and the scope of an in-depth discussion.

3. The Committee, therefore, decided that the holding of the resumed session of the Committee for Programme and Coordination concurrently with the forty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly did not constitute a precedent and that, henceforth, all sessions of the Committee should be held and concluded before the opening of the General Assembly.

A. Agenda

4. The agenda for the second part of the thirty-third session is reproduced in annex I to the present report.

B. Attendance

5. The following States members of the Committee were represented:

Bahamas
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burundi
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
Egypt
France
Germany
Ghana
India
Indonesia
Iraq
Italy
Japan
Kenya
Netherlands
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan
Poland
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Uganda
Ukraine
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Uruguay

6. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers:

Algeria
Argentina
Australia
Austria
Bangladesh
Belgium
Canada
Cuba
Ecuador
Greece
Hungary
Ireland
Latvia
Mexico
Morocco
Namibia
Portugal
Spain
Sweden
Thailand
Tunisia
Venezuela

7. The following specialized agencies were represented:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

8. Also present at the session were the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, the Controller and other senior officials of the United Nations Secretariat, including the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), representatives of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

C. Documentation

9. The list of documents before the Committee at the second part of the thirty-third session is set forth in annex II to the present report.

D. Adoption of the report of the Committee

10. At its 34th meeting, on 22 October 1993, the Committee adopted the draft report on the second part of its thirty-third session (E/AC.51/1993/L.6 and Add.1-32), as orally revised and amended during the discussion.

II. REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS

A. Restructuring and efficiency of the Secretariat

11. At its 26th and 27th meetings, on 15 October 1993, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on restructuring and efficiency of the Secretariat (A/48/428).

Discussion

12. Most delegations expressed the view that the report did not provide an analysis of the effects of restructuring but merely listed measures already taken and known to Member States. It was, therefore, difficult to see what was the programmatic impact of restructuring. A number of delegations felt that many points that Member States had wished to see addressed had been side-stepped. Some delegations expressed concern at the ongoing nature of the restructuring exercise and stressed the need for stability in the Secretariat. Some delegations expressed the view that in outlining the challenges facing the Organization, the issue of economic and social development had virtually been ignored. A number of delegations also felt that the report did not provide adequate information on decentralization as well as the proposed incorporation of the Office of Project Services into the Department of Development Support and Management Services.

13. A number of delegations acknowledged, however, that the time that had elapsed since the commencement of the restructuring did not permit full analysis of its impact.

Conclusions and recommendations

14. The Committee regretted that the report was more descriptive than analytical, reflecting the current state of flux in the Secretariat.

15. The Committee noted with concern that the issue of decentralization was not properly addressed and underlined the need for a prompt presentation of a report on the matter during the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

16. The Committee recommended that an analytical report, containing programmatic implications, in line with the request contained in General Assembly resolution 47/212 A of 6 May 1993, be prepared and submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session.

B. Review of the procedures for the provision of statements of programme budget implications and for the use and operation of the contingency fund

Methodology for estimates for preventive diplomacy and peacemaking in future budget outlines and programme budgets

17. At its 12th meeting, on 6 October, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General containing a review of the procedures for the provision of statements of programme budget implications and, for the use and operation of the contingency fund (A/48/281).

Conclusions and recommendations

18. The Committee took note of the report on the issues concerning the contingency fund and the statements of programme budget implications.

19. The Committee noted that the level of the contingency fund set at 0.75 per cent of the outline for the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 had been adequate for that biennium and that the level of the fund, set also at 0.75 per cent of the outline for the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 would appear to be adequate. The Committee also noted that the operation of the fund appeared to be satisfactory but that it should be kept under review.

20. The Committee also concluded that, while no changes in the current procedures for the provision of the implications statements were needed, it was important that the procedures be observed. The Committee recommended that the Secretary-General keep the issue under review and revert to it whenever required.

21. The Committee decided not to consider the section of the document on the methodology for preventive diplomacy and peacemaking in future budget outlines and programme budgets on account of its budgetary nature.

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

22. The proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 was introduced by the Secretary-General to the Committee at its 14th meeting, on 7 October 1993.

23. At its 14th to 16th and its 22nd meetings, on 7, 8 and 13 October, the Committee considered Part I of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

24. A number of delegations considered that part one provided a good overview of the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget.

25. Several delegations welcomed the highlighting in the budget priorities such as human rights, humanitarian affairs and administrative management of peace-keeping and redistribution of resources towards those priorities.

26. A number of delegations felt that there was no balance among the treatment of priorities, and in particular that the priorities of the medium-term plan and issues relating to development had not received adequate attention. Many stressed that there was a need to balance the interests of all Member States in the programme budget under consideration. A number of delegations felt that the Secretary-General had acted in accordance with paragraph 10 of resolution 47/213 which had established a balance between the priorities proposed in the outline and those in the medium-term plan.

27. A number of delegations were concerned over the rate of real growth of 1 per cent. The fact that the outline had been exceeded gave rise to concern by a number of delegations. They stressed the need for the budgetary process contained in General Assembly resolution 47/213 to be adhered to strictly.

28. Several delegations considered that restructuring in the economic and social fields should not constitute an end in itself, but should assist the Organization in implementing substantive programmes in those fields.

29. A number of other delegations also expressed concern that the redeployment of staff and resources among the various sections and programmes of the programme budget could distort the priorities established by the General Assembly in resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990 and could introduce a degree of selectivity in the implementation of programmes approved by the intergovernmental bodies. Other delegations felt that the distribution of resources reflected the current priorities of the Organization well.

30. One representative welcomed the establishment of the Office of Inspection and Investigation, but stressed the need for a distinction between maintaining the balance between external and internal control.

Conclusions and recommendations

1. General considerations

31. The Committee recalled the budgetary process established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 in the timing of the submission of the budget proposal. The Committee stressed that, notwithstanding the delays, the proposed programme budget for 1994-1995 would be properly reviewed and approved before the end of the current session of the General Assembly in December 1993.

32. The Committee noted that no steps had been taken to reduce the overall number of General Service staff, despite significant expenditures on modern technologies.

33. The Committee recommended that, in order to ensure full delivery of the programmes in the economic and social sectors, a detailed review should be undertaken by the Secretariat to avoid duplication of work among the three new departments in those sectors and between them and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Development Programme. On this understanding, the Committee recommend approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of those departments and UNCTAD.

34. The Committee recommended that approval of all sectors involved in the decentralization process be subject to the decisions that the General Assembly would take on the matter.

35. The Committee noted that there appeared to be limited progress in modernizing and streamlining the working methods of the Office of Conference Services. It considered that there was no programmatic justification for the increase in the resources for the Department of Administration and Management and that that proposed increase should be allocated in accordance with the priorities of resolution 47/213 to the areas proposed in the medium-term plan and the budget outline.

36. The Committee noted that its approval of the narratives was without prejudice to the decisions to be taken by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session with regard to (a) high-level posts (para. 80 of A/48/6 (Part I)); and (b) the peace-keeping support account.

2. Overall resource requirements

37. The Committee noted that the total amount of resources requested by the Secretary-General was above the level determined in the outline.

38. The Committee noted the proposed increase of 1 per cent real growth. The Committee underlined the need to adhere to all provisions of General Assembly resolution 41/213 and 47/213 on the budget outline.

3. Priorities

39. The Committee decided that the priorities of a broad sectoral nature approved in the medium-term plan as well as in resolution 47/213 should be

observed, and concluded that the budget should reflect the priorities at the subprogramme level as indicated in the plan.

40. The Committee questioned the usefulness of designating high or low priorities at the level of output or activity, representing 10 per cent of the resources, and recommended that that be discontinued.

4. Methodology

41. The Committee took note of the new methodology used to prepare the proposed programme budget, and recommended that it be further refined.

5. Format

42. The Committee noted with appreciation the new format of the programme budget that permitted in part one a summary of all the budget proposals. The Committee expressed dissatisfaction with the format of the sections. It also noted that extrabudgetary resources should be better presented and recommended that, in future programme budgets, the links between extrabudgetary resources and regular budget resources be shown more clearly. The formulation of the objectives as distinct from activities should be improved.

6. Documentation

43. The Committee regretted that the problem of timely submission of documentation had again not been settled, and stressed that the schedule of issuance of documentation to review groups as set out in the relevant regulations and rules must be strictly adhered to.

Section 1. Overall policy-making, direction and coordination

44. At its 17th meeting, on 8 October, the Committee considered section 1 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

45. A number of delegations expressed the view that the proposals for increases in staffing, consultant funds, travel, and in other expenditure items were not justified programmatically. In particular, several delegations questioned the need for the creation of a separate office, headed by an Under-Secretary-General, to manage and coordinate the activities relating to the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Organization, and asked whether those activities could be undertaken within the Department of Public Information without the need for additional resources. Some delegations questioned the justification for downgrading the post of Executive Secretary of the secretariat of the Board of External Auditors.

Conclusions and recommendations

46. The Committee noted with regret that the narrative of the section had not been formulated in accordance with the requirements of the prototype of the budget.

47. The Committee noted that the policy-making organs and offices included in section 1 were not within the framework of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

48. The Committee noted that the sessions of the Fifth Committee had increased considerably in number and duration over the last few years. However, the Secretariat unit serving the Fifth Committee and CPC had not been strengthened accordingly. It recommended that the joint CPC/Fifth Committee Secretariat unit be reinforced adequately through the redeployment of resources.

49. The Committee considered that activities related to the Department of Public Information should be met from within the programme and resources for that Department.

50. The Committee took note of section 1 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Section 2. United Nations integrated offices

51. At its 17th meeting, on 8 October 1993, the Director of the Budget introduced section 2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. The representative of the Secretary-General replied to questions.

52. The Committee, noting that the question of United Nations integrated offices had been allocated to the Second Committee, did not consider section 2 of the proposed programme budget.

Section 3. Political affairs

53. At its 18th meeting, on 11 October 1993, the Committee considered section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

54. In the course of the debate, overall questions on the section were raised by delegations relating to the rationale for the proposed increase in staff for the Department of Political Affairs. The view was expressed that the need for additional staff in some areas of activity could adequately be met through redeployment of staff. Other delegations were of the opinion that the proposed increase in staff was well justified, especially in respect of servicing of the Security Council and its subsidiary organs, in connection with the Arms Register. Some delegations drew attention to certain inconsistencies in the designation of priority in the proposed programme of work, noting that while the revised medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 designated priorities at the subprogramme level, the programme of work proposed under section 3, Political affairs, with the exception of programme 6, Elimination of apartheid, identified in several instances priority at the level of activities. The problem therefore

of priority designation, although having been discussed repeatedly, appeared to be a recurring one. Several delegations questioned the need for the level of resources proposed for consultants and official travel. Attention was also drawn to the lack of transparency in the presentation of extrabudgetary resource requirements since the use of funds expected to be made available had not been indicated in an unequivocal manner.

55. Specific questions on the various subsections of section 3, Political affairs, namely: 3A. Policy-making organs; 3B. Department of Political Affairs I; 3C. Department of Political Affairs II; and 3D. Outer space affairs, were as follows:

(a) Section 3A. Policy-making organs

56. One delegation suggested that publication of the Official Records of the Security Council might be undertaken in a less expensive way, possibly using the internal capabilities of the Secretariat.

57. Several delegations proposed that paragraph 3A.16 should be expanded to include the list of the 18 Territories considered as Non-Self-Governing Territories.

(b) Section 3B. Department of Political Affairs I

58. A number of delegations expressed concern over the resource level allocated to the servicing of the Security Council subsidiary bodies. In this respect they stressed their disappointment with the delays in processing the applications addressed to the Security Council sanctions committees. They have requested further increases of staff and resources to meet this objective.

59. Some other delegations voiced their concern over the inclusion, in the proposed programme of work, of references to statements by the President of the Security Council, referred to, inter alia, in paragraph 3B.4, as these statements, in the opinion of that delegation, constituted legislative mandates only when approved by the competent intergovernmental bodies.

60. In connection with the proposed allocation of resources to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and to three regional disarmament centres, several delegations expressed their concern about continued support to extrabudgetary activities from the regular budget. One delegation supported the proposed conversion of the post of the Director of the Regional Disarmament Centre for Asia and the Pacific from its current temporary status to an established post.

61. Several delegations supported the proposed increase in the Disarmament Fellowships programme.

(c) Section 3C. Department of Political Affairs II

62. Several delegations expressed their support for the activities proposed to be carried out under subprogramme 4, Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections, and called for the enhancement of the capacity for assistance to the electoral process. Several other delegations questioned the legislative mandate for entrusting the resident coordinator with follow-up activities for electoral procedures, referred to in paragraph 3C.37.

63. Some delegations, while referring to positive political developments that had been taking place in South Africa as well as in the Middle East, expressed the need for the resources allocated to programme 5, Question of Palestine, and programme 6, Elimination of apartheid, to be kept under review. However, several other delegations were of the opinion that resources at the proposed level should continue to be provided to implement activities under these programmes until political negotiations under way culminated in concrete and final arrangements.

64. Several delegations were of the view that General Assembly resolution 47/120 A, section II, should have been cited in paragraph 3C.9 as one of the mandates for implementing the activities of subprogramme 1, Good offices, preventive diplomacy and peacemaking, of programme 1. One delegation expressed concern over some of the contemplated activities within paragraph 3C.14 from the point of view of their conformity with the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of Member States.

65. A number of delegations questioned the programme of work and the resulting resource requirements proposed for subprogramme 3, Trusteeship and decolonization of programme 5, and the Trusteeship Council and the Special Committee of 24, feeling that savings were possible in this area. Some other delegations supported the activities of the Committee of 24 as the appropriate forum for the exchange of views regarding decolonization issues.

(d) Section 3D. Outer space affairs

66. Several delegations questioned the need for inclusion in the programme of work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs a reference to a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, while other delegations supported such a reference.

67. Some delegations expressed concern about a cumulative backlog in the activities of the United Nations Space Applications Programme.

Conclusions and recommendations

68. The Committee noted with concern that the format of the narrative of the section and of the formulation of the objectives as well as the explanation of the extrabudgetary resources were not in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/213 of 23 December 1992. The Committee expressed dismay about the fact that the Secretariat has not implemented this aspect of Assembly resolution 47/214 of 23 December 1992.

69. The Committee recommended that the first sentence of paragraph 3A.16 should be revised to read:

> "There are currently 18 Territories on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories, namely American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, East Timor, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Gibraltar, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the United States Virgin Islands and Western Sahara."

70. The Committee recommended that the end of the last sentence of paragraph 3C.9 should be revised, after the words "General Assembly", to read "the most recent of which are its resolutions 47/64 D of 11 December 1992 and

47/120 A of 18 December 1992" in order to cite properly the mandates for implementing the activities of subprogramme 1, Good offices, preventive diplomacy and peacemaking, of programme 1. It also recommended that the legislative mandate for subprogramme 3 (resolution 1514 (XV) and others contained in the medium-term plan) be added to paragraph 3C.33.

71. The Committee drew attention to the importance of the activities with regard to the various Security Council sanctions committees and their adequate funding within the approved programme budget.

72. The Committee was unable to agree on the legislative mandate for the activities proposed for the resident coordinator in part I of para. 3C.37 and recommended that the General Assembly give it further consideration.

73. Subject to the above-mentioned amendments, the Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Section 4. Peace-keeping operations and special missions

74. At its 19th meeting, on 11 October 1993, the Committee considered section 4 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

75. There was general agreement that the proposals relating to the strengthening of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations were justified given the recent substantial increase in peace-keeping activity. The consolidation of the Field Operations Division into the Department was noted. The Committee noted that the Department, including the Field Operations Division, would be receiving a number of posts from the peace-keeping support account and that those posts were not included in the fascicle. Concern was expressed by some delegations that the resource proposals for the Department might prove inadequate. A number of delegations addressed the issue of staff in the Department who were seconded from Governments without cost to the Organization, which was not reflected in the budget document. While the practice was generally welcomed as a way of providing the Organization with staff resources more quickly than might otherwise be possible, some delegations thought that arrangement might conflict with requirements for impartiality and confidentiality, given the politically sensitive nature of some of the work carried out by the Department. Some delegations queried the absence of contingency provisions for new missions. A number of delegations addressed the budget proposals for the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine (UNTSO) and felt that the resources requested were excessive, in particular the provisions for the acquisition of vehicles, furniture and equipment.

76. The issue of security measures for peace-keeping personnel and its training was also addressed by some delegations.

Conclusions and recommendations

77. The Committee recalled that an in-depth evaluation of peace-keeping activities was scheduled for 1995 and an interim report was due in 1994.

78. The Committee requested that the Secretary-General submit to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session his proposals with regard to the requirements concerning the security and safety of all United Nations staff connected with United Nations activities at the Headquarters location and in the field. The Committee noted that the Secretariat agreed to provide a written proposal.

79. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 4 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Section 7. Legal activities

80. At its 19th and 20th meetings, on 11 and 12 October 1993, the Committee considered section 7 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

81. Some delegations expressed concern that the proposed reductions under the programme for legal activities, particularly in respect of international trade law, and the small increase under the programme for the law of the sea and ocean affairs, might adversely affect the implementation of the programme of work and asked for assurance from the Secretariat in that regard. In particular, the reductions under external printing should not prevent the issuance of the various legal publications. The question of assistance to developing countries in connection with participation at meetings of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) was raised by some delegations. A number of delegations stated that UNCITRAL should conduct its work in a more cost-effective manner. Clarification was sought regarding the workload of the Administrative Tribunal and the presentation of its reports in two languages.

Reservation

82. One delegation expressed a reservation on the inclusion of subprogramme 4 (Servicing the Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea) of programme B and its financing under the regular budget.

Conclusions and recommendations

83. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 7 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Section 8. Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development

84. At its 32nd meeting, on 20 October 1993, the Committee considered section 8 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

85. A number of delegations emphasized the importance of the activities proposed under section 8 and supported the proposed programme of work.

86. One delegation expressed concern that the programme of work contained elements of technical cooperation activities, in particular in the areas of social development and the advancement of women, which were outside the responsibilities of the Department as defined by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/212 B of 6 May 1993.

87. One delegation expressed concern that the level of resources proposed in the context of programme 45, Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development, may not be sufficient for implementation of relating mandates. Another delegation indicated that the activities relating to the development of the least-developed countries might duplicate those carried out by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Conclusions and recommendations

88. The Committee took note of the fact that the creation of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development represented a new phase in the United Nations activities towards an integrated approach to economic, social and environmental aspects of development.

89. The Committee agreed that the work to be carried out by the Department was of growing importance and of high priority.

90. The Committee emphasized the importance of the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and requested the Secretary-General to ensure that adequate services and resources are provided for those events.

91. The Committee recommended that appropriate measures should be taken for strengthening the coordination among the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, the Department for Development Support and Management Services, the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the regional commissions.

92. The Committee stressed that the activities and related resources proposed under section 8 in relation to the Committee for Development Planning and the World Food Council should be maintained without prejudging intergovernmental consultations on the future of the two intergovernmental bodies.

93. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 8 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Section 9. Department of Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis

94. At its 30th meeting, on 19 October 1993, the Committee considered section 9 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

95. Some delegations indicated that the proposed programme of work duplicated some of the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions, and suggested that more attention should be given to improving coordination between the Department and the institutions concerned. One delegation expressed the view that the Department's proposed programme of work could help to define the parameters by which the organizations of the United Nations system dealing with social, economic and environmental matters could assess the interplay between their respective activities. Another delegation indicated that the proposed programme of work of the Department contained some activities which had not been programmed in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and did not currently have legislative mandates. In particular, that delegation pointed out that subprogramme 5 was not in the medium-term plan and expressed concern at the fact that that subprogramme had been initiated without a legislative mandate.

96. Several delegations expressed their concern at the proposed increase in the level of resources for a programme of work which was not among the five priority areas of a broad sectoral nature decided by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session. Some delegations indicated that the distribution of the resources among subprogrammes did not take into account the priority designation at the subprogramme level as mandated by the General Assembly.

Conclusions and recommendations

97. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 9 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Section 10. Department of Development Support and Management Services

98. At its 30th and 31st meetings, on 19 October 1993, the Committee considered section 10 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

99. A number of delegations supported the proposed programme of work, while considering that the programme narratives of this section did not adequately reflect the activities proposed, in particular the objectives of the Department.

100. Some delegations indicated that the proposed programme of work contained a number of duplications of the activities undertaken in other departments and offices in the economic and social sectors. Other delegations stressed the importance of coordinating activities among the Department for Development Support and Management Services, the Department for Economic and Social

Information and Policy Analysis, the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. A number of delegations emphasized the importance of the coordination of activities of the Department for Development Support and Management Services with the United Nations Development Programme and other agencies of the United Nations system.

101. Several delegations noted with concern the reduction in the level of regular budget and extrabudgetary resources for 1994-1995. Some other delegations, however, welcomed the overall reduction in those resources and queried the increases in some areas.

102. Some delegations felt that the Department's activities should not focus on the least developed countries and economies in transition but should address issues pertinent to all developing countries. Some other delegations emphasized the need not to overlook the specific problems facing countries in transition within the mandate of the Department.

103. Several delegations felt that the relation between the medium-term plan and budget resources as well as priorities were not clearly reflected in the narratives of this section.

104. One delegation underlined the necessity to integrate the army in the development process.

Conclusions and recommendations

105. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 10 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, it being understood that the proposals of the Secretary-General in respect of decentralization would be considered at a later stage on the basis of the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General and that the Department in its activities would focus on the substantive matters within its mandate rather than on particular groups of countries.

Section 11A. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

106. At its 32nd and 33rd meetings, on 20 October 1993, the Committee considered section 11A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

107. A number of delegations expressed concern at the proposed growth rate for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) compared with the overall growth rate proposed for the entire programme budget.

108. Some delegations expressed their concern at the serious mismatch between the priorities agreed at UNCTAD VIII and the resources allocated to the relevant subprogrammes. Other delegations expressed concern that the level of resources for activities relating to science and technology for development and to transnational corporations was less than those allocated to those programmes in 1992-1993.

109. One delegation was of the view that the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development should be postponed from 1995 to 1996, while others felt that the session should be held as planned.

110. Some members stressed the need to examine the intergovernmental bodies of UNCTAD to ensure that there was no duplication of work, that ad hoc arrangements were not automatically extended, and that economies were achieved in the scheduling of meetings.

111. Some members expressed concern that the proposed decrease in the number of posts might have a negative impact on the implementation of activities.

Conclusions and recommendations

112. The Committee expressed concern at the late issue of section 11A of the proposed programme budget, which had not allowed sufficient time for delegations to analyse fully its programmatic content.

113. The Committee regretted that the provisions of General Assembly resolution 47/212 B of 6 May 1993 regarding the implementation of the programme on science and technology and transnational corporations were not complied with and recommended that measures be taken to implement fully paragraph 4b of section III of the resolution.

114. The Committee recommended that a corrigendum should be issued to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 1/ to reflect the recommendation in paragraph 119 of the report of the thirty-second session of CPC regarding the title of programme 17 and subprogramme 1. Accordingly, the title of programme 17 and subprogramme 1 of section 11a of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 would also have to be corrected. Therefore, the title of the above-mentioned programme would be "Science and technology for development" and the title of the subprogramme "endogenous capacity-building and resource mobilization".

115. Subject to these recommendations, the Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 11A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Section 11B. International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/GATT)

116. At its 33rd meeting, on 20 October 1993, the Committee considered section 11B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

117. Some delegations considered that there was a need for a clearly defined overall strategy for international trade and development in order to ensure that there was no duplication or overlap in the programmes of concerned organizations.

Conclusions and recommendations

118. The Committee regretted that paragraph 3b of section J of General Assembly resolution 47/212 B regarding the appointment of the Executive Director of the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT was not complied with. The Committee underlined that the continued vacancy at this post has had a negative impact on the implementation of the work programme of the Centre, and stressed the need for that post to be filled without further delay.

119. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 11B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Section 12A. United Nations Environment Programme

120. At its 20th meeting, on 12 October 1993, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the programme narrative of section 12A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

121. A number of delegations stressed the important role of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in the follow-up of Agenda 21. Some delegations expressed concern about the proposed reduction of resources under that section. They considered that, since the environment was one of the five priority areas for the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, there should have been proposals for increased resources.

122. Some delegations expressed the view that, although they were concerned by the proposed negative growth of 3.4 per cent, they would be ready to accept it if the reduction of resources were the result of streamlining in support services. Some delegations noted that the programme narrative failed to bring out clearly the objectives to be achieved and, as a result, it was not possible to relate the resources with the objectives. They stressed the need for improved formulation of objectives in the future.

123. A number of delegations called for increased coordination and cooperation between UNEP and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) so as to achieve greater efficiency and rationalization of work. Some delegations emphasized the distinct roles and mandates of UNEP and of the Centre and stressed the need to keep the two organizations separate.

124. Some delegations called for the equal treatment of New York, Geneva and Nairobi as United Nations centres.

125. Some delegations pointed out that there seemed to be overlap of activities between UNEP, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and urged that greater effort be exerted to avoid duplication in such areas as capacity-building, forestry and activities related to biodiversity. While supporting the call for greater coordination, some delegations underlined the need for each organization to carry out its mandated activities.

Conclusion and recommendation

126. The Committee noted with concern the projected decline in extrabudgetary resources and stressed the need to assess its impact on programmes. The Committee further recommended that a prompt solution be found to the proliferation of trust funds and the distortion that that might create on priorities and established mandates.

127. The Committee took note of the corrections to the programme narrative introduced by the representative of the Secretariat and recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 12A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Section 12B. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

128. At its 21st meeting, on 12 October 1993, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 12B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

129. Some delegations stressed that the distinct identity of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements should be maintained. They emphasized the importance of shelter as a basic human right, and the need to strengthen the Centre. Other delegations expressed the view that the Centre and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) had much in common and that placing them under common direction would lead to a rationalization of their respective work programmes, improved coordination of activities and streamlining of support services such as administrative, personnel and liaison services, which could bring resource savings in the longer term.

130. Some delegations sought assurances that the redeployment of resources to preparatory activities for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the Conference itself, as stated in paragraph 12B.18, would not affect other mandated activities adversely. Some delegations felt that the projected distribution of resources among subprogrammes did not reflect the priority designation contained in the medium-term plan.

Conclusions and recommendations

131. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 12B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Section 13. Crime control

132. At its 23rd meeting, on 13 October 1993, the Committee considered section 13 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Conclusions and recommendations

133. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 13 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Section 14. International drug control

134. At its 23rd meeting, on 13 October 1993, the Committee considered section 14 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

135. Most delegations commented favourably on the presentation and content of the programme of work. They noted that the General Assembly, at its forty-eighth session convened a two-day high-level segment on international drug control and expressed the belief that its deliberations might be of significance to the programme.

Conclusions and recommendations

136. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 14 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Section 15. Economic Commission for Africa

137. At its 28th meeting, on 18 October 1993, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 15A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

138. Several delegations expressed satisfaction at the improved presentation of the programme narrative and the restructuring of the subprogrammes consistent with the objectives and priorities contained in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. A number of delegations welcomed the contents of the programme narrative relating to regional integration and emphasized the importance of strengthening subregional institutions, taking into account the recent developments in that field, mainly the entry into force of the treaty establishing the African Economic Community, which was expected shortly.

139. Various delegations expressed the importance they attached to the continuing development of Africa, including the adequate implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. They felt that the growth level proposed for that section was not commensurate with the tasks to be undertaken and urged that additional resources should be allocated to the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). One delegation did not agree. Several delegations felt that the subprogrammes and activities related to poverty alleviation, women and children had not been given the priority attention they deserved in the programme narrative nor in the distribution of resources. Some delegations expressed the view that ECA must undertake internal

prioritization to focus better on substantive activities of a high-priority nature.

140. A number of delegations expressed concern at the decline in the level of extrabudgetary resources, particularly from traditional funding sources like the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

141. Several delegations stressed the need to ensure that the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) and the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) received adequate resources for implementing their programmes. Some delegations felt that it was inappropriate to provide grants on a continued basis and questioned the proposal to renew "non-recurrent" provisions. Other delegations considered it inappropriate to provide grants to regional institutes from the regular budget.

Conclusions and recommendations

142. The Committee took note of the improved presentation of the programme narrative of the section.

143. The Committee noted the relative inattention given to issues pertaining to social development in the programme of work. It stressed the importance of activities in that field and the need for them to be strengthened and to be allocated adequate resources.

144. The Committee laid emphasis on the need to allocate adequate resources in support of activities related to poverty alleviation, women, children and crime prevention.

145. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 15 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Section 16. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

146. At its 24th meeting, on 14 October 1993, the Committee considered the programme narrative of section 16 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

147. A number of delegations were of the view that the level of resources proposed was not commensurate with the expanded workload of ESCAP. Other delegations felt that there was a need for further prioritization within the existing resources of ESCAP.

148. Some delegations expressed satisfaction for the proposed expansion of activities relating to the Pacific island developing countries.

149. A number of delegations inquired about the outcome of the consultations on decentralization of activities to the regional commissions, and sought

clarification about the date of submission of the related proposals to the General Assembly.

Conclusions and recommendations

150. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 16 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, with the following addition in subprogramme 1, sub-item 3: "Standardization, quality control and related issues leading to the expansion of intraregional trade".

Section 17. Economic Commission for Europe

151. At its 29th meeting, on 18 October 1993, the Committee considered section 17 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

152. Several delegations expressed concern that the level of resources did not seem sufficient, particularly taking into account the increased responsibility of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in relation to the recent developments in the region and its increased membership.

153. A number of delegations supported the proposed programme of its work and the priorities contained therein. Some other delegations questioned the allocation of resources between the priority areas and argued that more resources should have been devoted to trade facilitation.

154. Some delegations expressed concern over the level of vacant posts in the ECE secretariat and its impact on its output and requested that urgent measures be taken to fill them.

155. One delegation noted that a substantive part of the proposed ECE activities is aimed at developing and/or updating legal instruments and technical standards which are often of interest to the States Members of the United Nations outside the region.

156. Another delegation expressed concern that Chernobyl-disaster-related problems were not reflected in the programmed activities despite the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council and the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-second session, as well as relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

Conclusions and recommendations

157. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 17 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Section 18. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

158. At its 29th meeting, on 18 October 1993, the Committee considered section 18 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

159. A number of delegations expressed concern over the anticipated decrease in Othe level of extrabudgetary resources. It was felt that the level of resources in some subprogrammes did not reflect the importance of the activities to be carried out. At the same time some delegations were concerned about the limited resources assigned to some subprogrammes, especially to those related to subprogramme 14, Regional integration and cooperation. One delegation questioned the growth in resources for the programme as a whole.

Conclusions and recommendations

160. The Committee recommended that coordination between the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the specialized agencies and other United Nations programmes should be strengthened.

161. The Committee expressed concern that activities relating to drug control and the preparations for the World Summit for Social Development and the Global Conference on Small Island Developing States were not adequately addressed in the programme narrative.

162. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 18 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Section 19. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

163. At its 30th meeting, on 19 October 1993, the Committee considered section 19 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

164. A number of delegations were of the view that the priority accorded to the subprogramme on the environment was not reflected in the proposed allocation of resources, particularly in view of the negative effects on the environment of the circumstances that prevailed in the region. They also expressed the view that more resources should have been allocated to the subprogrammes on natural resources, particularly water resources, population, and women and development.

165. A number of delegations noted that there was no reference to any activities in the Palestinian occupied territories, and expressed the view that the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) should develop a programme of activities in those territories as part of the global programme of assistance to be prepared in the framework of the mechanism recently set up by the Secretary-General.

166. A number of delegations were of the view that various parts of the programme of work of ESCWA for 1994-1995 seemed to duplicate the work of other entities of the Secretariat or of specialized agencies. They recommended that ESCWA ensure that duplication was avoided and that it coordinate closely its activities with the entities and specialized agencies concerned.

Conclusions and recommendations

167. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 19 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Section 20. Regular programme of technical cooperation

168. At its 31st meeting, on 19 October 1993, the Committee considered section 20 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

169. Some delegations supported the proposed redeployment of resources from sectoral advisory services to the regional commissions. Other delegations expressed concern that that redeployment, as well as the expected decentralization of resources under energy and natural resources, might affect the implementation of central programmes.

170. Some delegations noted the difficulty in identifying activities in the section and felt that more detailed information should be provided in that respect.

171. Some delegations were of the opinion that activities related to technical cooperation should not be financed from the regular budget. Other delegations felt that the activities under section 20 had contributed and should continue to contribute to development.

172. Some delegations considered that the scope of the training activities was not as broad as it should be.

Conclusions and recommendations

173. The Committee noted that the distribution of resources of section 20 was indicative, reflecting the demand-oriented nature of technical cooperation and the pending decision on decentralization to be taken by the General Assembly.

174. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 20 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, taking into account the above-mentioned factors.

Section 21. Human rights

175. At its 22nd and 23rd meetings, on 13 October, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 21 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

176. A number of delegations noted the substantial increase of the workload mandated by the General Assembly and supported the increased resources proposed for the Centre for Human Rights. A number of other delegations were of the view that the increase proposed was inadequate and would not match the increased workload of the Centre. Some others, while recognizing the importance of the activities carried out by the Centre, voiced their concern over the expansion of this sector, indicating that it had benefited from substantial allocations under previous budgets. Some delegations expressed the opinion that additional requirements should be met through redeployment from other areas.

177. Some delegations expressed doubts relating to the new structure of the Centre, referred to in paragraph 21.4, from the point of view of its conformity with its mandate.

178. A number of delegations emphasized that the provision of increased resources for the programme should not affect the level of resources required for the programmes in the economic and social sectors.

179. Some delegations were of the opinion that longer-term solutions would be required to deal with the increased workload of the Centre for Human Rights.

180. Some delegations expressed the view that the technical cooperation activities were not adequately emphasized in the proposed programme of work. Other delegations questioned the proposed level of resources under subprogrammes 2, 3 and 4 and felt that the additional resources were not equally distributed among subprogrammes. A number of delegations questioned the designation of low priority for activities under subprogramme 4.

181. Some delegations considered that the programme of work of the Centre regarding the coordination of all human rights activities and the integration of human rights concerns into economic and social development activities were not legislatively justified. In their opinion the activities relating to the economic and social areas should be reflected in the other sections of the budget.

182. A number of delegations noted that the activities regarding the right to development were not adequately reflected in the proposed programme of work. A number of delegations considered that basic economic and social rights, such as housing, were not adequately reflected.

183. A number of delegations were of the opinion that the increased responsibility and workload of the Centre for Human Rights should be matched with an adequate increase in resources. Other delegations were of the view that due respect should be given to the broad priorities set in the medium-term plan and the provision of General Assembly resolution 47/213.

Conclusions and recommendations

184. The Committee expressed its disappointment that the recommendations contained in the evaluation report on the human rights programme (E/AC.51/1992/3) had not been taken into account during the preparation of this budget section.

185. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narratives of section 21 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

186. The Committee noted that proposals concerning the follow-up to the World Conference on Human Rights, requiring adequate resources, would be submitted at a later date.

Section 22A. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

187. At its 21st meeting, on 12 October 1993, the Committee considered section 22A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

188. Some delegations were of the opinion that the distribution of extrabudgetary resources among subprogrammes needed to be reviewed, while others expressed the view that the level of detail on the utilization of those resources was inadequate.

189. Clarifications were sought regarding the rationale for proposing the transfer, on a phased basis, of the posts of chief of mission in 17 of the least developed countries in which the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) operates, from extrabudgetary financing to the regular budget. A number of delegations supported such a proposal. Other delegations wished to see a clearer indication of the budget implications of such a move.

Conclusions and recommendations

190. The Committee expressed disappointment that the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on the first part of its thirty-third session (A/48/16 (Part I)) relating to the Secretary-General's report on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on international protection of and assistance to refugees: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (E/AC.51/1993/2), were not taken into account during the preparation of the section. The Committee recommended that the results of this evaluation should be taken into account during the implementation of this programme.

191. The Committee regretted the lack of specific information about the projected use of extrabudgetary resources expected for this programme. In view of the special importance of such resources, the Committee recommended that such information be provided to the Fifth Committee for timely consideration during the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

192. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 22A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, taking into account the above recommendations.

Section 22B. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

193. At its 21st meeting, on 12 October 1993, the Committee considered section 22B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

194. A number of delegations endorsed the activities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

195. One delegation endorsed paragraph 22B.1 of section 22B of the proposed programme budget and concurred with the observation that, at the time of the preparation of these budget estimates, no political settlement had been reached in respect of the Palestine refugees, and that therefore it had been assumed that the programme would be continued during the biennium 1994-1995. The same delegation noted that, while the refugee population was estimated to increase at a rate of 3.5 per cent per annum, the estimated requirements would remain the same. The same delegation commented that extrabudgetary contributions to assist continuing peace efforts in the Middle East should be over and above what was proposed in section 22B.

196. One delegation noted that no new activities or additional resources had been proposed under section 22B for the biennium 1994-1995. The delegation expressed the view that, as the situation regarding Palestinian refugees had not yet yielded the expected results, this subprogramme may still need resources for some time to come.

Conclusions and recommendations

197. The Committee emphasized the importance of the activities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

198. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 22B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Section 23. Department of Humanitarian Affairs

199. At its 24th meeting, on 14 October 1993, the Committee considered the programme narrative of section 23 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

200. A number of delegations expressed support for the increased resources allocated to the Department of Humanitarian Affairs as the minimum required to enable it to carry out its increased workload and indicated that the General Assembly should consider providing additional resources to that programme.

201. Some delegations expressed concern that the offices in New York and at Geneva may be duplicating activities, and were of the view that the structures and functions of those offices should be further rationalized.

202. A number of delegations questioned the necessity of having an information unit within the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and considered that it overlapped with the functions of the Department of Public Information.

203. A number of delegations stressed the importance of including legislative mandates for activities being implemented by the Department, particularly those addressing humanitarian diplomacy, de-mining and those linked to peace-keeping, in order to ensure full respect for the sovereignty of Member States.

Conclusions and recommendations

204. The Committee expressed its support for strengthening the Department of Humanitarian Affairs for the implementation of its programme of work.

205. The Committee recommended that the conclusions reached by the Economic and Social Council at its 1993 coordination segment should be taken into account in the implementation of the programme.

206. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 23 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Section 24. Department of Public Information

207. At its 25th meeting, on 14 October 1993, the Committee considered section 24 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

208. While some delegations stated that the size of the proposed budget of the Department of Public Information was excessive, other delegations felt that the proposed level of resources was commensurate with the work of the Organization in the area of public information.

209. A number of delegations welcomed the restructuring of the Department and stressed the importance, and need for further strengthening, of its programmes in improving the effectiveness of the Department's information machinery, both on the Headquarters level and in the field.

210. Some delegations felt that the programme should be reviewed against the background of the increasing needs of other priority programmes. They expressed the view that serious streamlining of the Department's activities would provide additional resources that could be reallocated to priority areas.

211. A number of delegations questioned the existence of a mechanism that provided for continuous and systematic evaluation of the Department's programme and activities. It was stated that evaluation was necessary to assess the impact of the Department's output compared with the objectives set by the General Assembly. It was felt that evaluation would also assist in identifying areas of duplication. Some delegations suggested that an external review of the Department should be implemented. Another delegation, while supportive of the concept of evaluation, suggested that such evaluation should be guided by stated objectives.

212. While some delegations emphasized that United Nations publications were highly valued because of their objectives, others regretted that not many were published in Arabic. One delegation specifically requested that the programme include an Arabic version of the publications mentioned in the programme of work, in paragraphs 24.10 - 5 (a), 7 (a), (f) and (m), 8 (b) and (c), and 10 (h), (i) and (j). One other delegation requested that all United Nations languages should be respected. Another delegation emphasized the importance of reaching as large an audience as possible, but made the point that there were many more languages than the six official ones used by the United Nations.

213. Several delegations expressed concern about the treatment of United Nations Information Centres. A number of delegations remarked that the proposed reduction in resources for information centres could undermine information activities relating to knowledge of the Organization's programmes in a number of countries and regions. Other delegations did not see information centres as a priority. Some delegations commented on the concentration of resources in a number of United Nations information centres, and proposed that resources be reallocated to establishing such centres in developing countries and countries in transition. Some delegations stated that the decisions of the General Assembly were not reflected in the current requirements for United Nations Information Centres. One delegation expressed the view that the scope of information activities in Nairobi should be comparable to that of the United Nations information services at Geneva and in Vienna.

214. A number of delegations referred to the criticism of the United Nations in the media.

215. While several delegations supported the priority designation for information activities on the struggle against apartheid, a number of delegations noted that other priority programmes, as they appeared in the medium-term plan, had not been reflected in the proposed budget. Other delegations felt that there was room for reduction in information activities relating to South Africa and the Middle East.

216. One delegation commented that paragraph 24.73 was superfluous, and accordingly should be deleted from the text of the proposed budget.

217. A number of delegations stressed the importance of the continuation of guided tours at Headquarters.

218. In response to one delegation, the Secretariat undertook to provide consolidated information on resources allocated for public information activities across the proposed programme budget, including staff requirements, to the General Assembly at its current regular session (forty-eighth).

Conclusions and recommendations

219. The Committee noted that guided tours of United Nations Headquarters constituted an essential part of the public policy of the Organization and recommended that those tours be resumed as soon as possible, taking into account appropriate safety and security considerations.

220. The Committee recommended that the Secretariat should respond more effectively and expeditiously to the criticism of the United Nations in the media.

221. The Committee noted the establishment of the office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for Public Policy, and drew attention to the possible duplication of mandates and activities relating to the celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations between the Department of Public Information and the Special Adviser for Public Policy.

222. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 24 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, subject to the deletion of paragraph 24.73.

B. Prototype of a new format of the medium-term plan

223. At its 12th and 13th meetings, on 6 October, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on a possible new approach to programme planning (A/48/277).

224. Some delegations found that the report provided a good account of the seminar on programme planning in the United Nations that was held from 22 to 28 April 1993 to assist the Secretariat in drafting the prototype of the new format of the medium-term plan, as recommended by the Committee at its thirty-second session and subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/214 of 23 December 1992. However, several delegations expressed disappointment that the report did not meet the Committee's request that a prototype of a new format of the medium-term plan be presented to it at its current session and to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth regular session.

225. Most delegations agreed that the plan as currently conceived was not well suited for the important functions it was meant to fulfil. The present procedures of the plan and its revisions were considered too complicated and cumbersome both for the Secretariat, in particular the substantive units, and for the Member States.

226. A number of delegations expressed doubts as to the usefulness of the medium-term plan and proposed that the plan be abolished entirely. Other delegations did not share that view and considered that planning played an important role in consolidating and reconciling the various intergovernmental mandates and was a useful tool for both Member States and the Secretariat.

227. The proposal to separate the two basic functions of the plan, that is, to provide a policy-level perspective and to provide a medium-term programme of work in two separate documents, was not supported. Many favoured a longer-term perspective, but recognized the fact that it was almost impossible to predict with any degree of certainty the course of world events for any period longer than five years.

228. Many delegations also expressed the view that a concise, forward-looking policy document with a perspective of no more than five years, developed in consultation with Member States, might be the best possible solution.

229. A number of delegations considered the proposed four-year programme of work to be duplicative of the programme budget and were not convinced that that aspect of the new approach would represent an improvement in the planning process. Other delegations considered that the programme of work would facilitate the process of review of the programme budget. As concerned the proposal for a one-year budget consisting mainly of financial data, most

delegations were in agreement that the present two-year programme budget cycle adequately served its purpose.

230. A number of delegations noted that two important aspects of the planning process, monitoring and evaluation, were not addressed in the report and expressed the view that more emphasis should be given to the role of monitoring and evaluation. Some delegations expressed the view that strengthening of the evaluation process could provide a basis for a revitalized role of CPC.

Conclusions and recommendations

231. The Committee regretted that the Secretariat had not provided a prototype of a new format of the medium-term plan as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/214.

232. The Committee noted that the effectiveness of the medium-term plan in its present form was increasingly being called into question. The Committee also noted that the plan was little used and its impact on the work of the Organization was limited. The Committee further noted that the current medium-term plan did not provide adequate overall policy direction.

233. The Committee reaffirmed the need for a programmatic planning tool beyond the biennial programme budget. In that connection, the Committee recommended that consideration be given to replacing the current medium-term plan by a composite document, to be approved by the General Assembly, containing the following elements:

(a) A perspective, which would be a concise forward-looking policy document. It would contain an analysis of persistent problems and challenges and emerging trends that would need to be addressed by the international community within the next four to six years, and the role of the Organization in that undertaking. The perspective would indicate broad priority areas for the work of the Organization; it would be amended only if pressing needs of an unforeseeable nature arose during the period covered;

(b) A programme framework, which would list only major programmes and subprogrammes and would provide the guidelines against which the preparation and implementation of the programme budget would be assessed. The narrative of each programme should consist of a brief one-page chapter detailing its objectives and mandates. The programme framework should be reviewed regularly every two years in the off-budget year in an effective manner to reflect new mandates.

234. The Committee also recommended that the present two-year programme budget cycle be continued.

235. In the programme budget, the narrative of the substantive subprogrammes should consist of clearly formulated objectives that were designed to bring about, to the extent possible, observable change. The objectives for support services would indicate targets for improved efficiency and effectiveness of the services to be rendered to the substantive departments and Member States.

236. The programme and budget performance reports should detail the achievements relative to the objectives of the programme framework and the resources of the programme budget.

237. The Committee also recommended that the findings of the programme performance monitoring reports and evaluation processes should be taken into account in the formulation of the programmes as a key element to improve effectiveness.

238. The Committee recommended that the prototype of the composite document be presented by the Secretary-General for consideration through CPC and ACABQ to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session in order to facilitate a final decision on the format.

C. Accountability and responsibility of programme managers in the United Nations

239. At its 26th and 27th meetings, on 15 October 1993, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on accountability and responsibility of programme managers in the United Nations (A/48/452).

Discussion

240. All delegations expressed the view that the report did not address the issues with which the Secretary-General had been requested to deal. Doubt was expressed with regard to the notion of the Secretariat that several systems establishing accountability and responsibility already existed. Delegations felt that, even if such systems did exist, they were not implemented. It was widely regretted that another year had been lost without implementing the much-needed system.

Conclusions and recommendations

241. The Committee regretted that the report did not answer the issues which the Secretary-General had been requested to address. The report did not deal with the emplacement of a transparent and effective system designed to make programme managers accountable for their actions, but merely proposed to defer action to a later date.

242. The Committee questioned the report's statement that several systems establishing accountability and responsibility already existed within the United Nations.

243. The Committee insisted on compliance with the request of the General Assembly for a transparent and effective system of accountability and responsibility contained in its resolutions 47/212 B and 47/214.

244. The Committee recommended that such a system should provide, as a minimum, unmistakable allocation of responsibilities among staff members, particularly programme managers, including clear supervisory responsibilities and mechanisms for performance assessment and remedial action. The system should also take into account, inter alia, the elements mentioned in paragraph 58 of the report of the Secretary-General and the relevant existing recommendations of pertinent bodies, in particular, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the Board of Auditors, Internal Audit, the International Civil Service Commission and the Joint Inspection Unit.

245. The Committee also recommended that the system should be implemented as soon as possible, but no later than 1 January 1995.

246. The Committee further recommended that the Secretary-General submit a report on the implementation of the system to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session.

IV. COORDINATION QUESTIONS

Preparations for the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination

247. At its 12th meeting, on 6 October 1993, the Committee considered the question of the preparations for the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) and the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC).

248. The Chairman recalled that the item on coordination questions had been kept open in order for the Committee to consider further the preparations for the CPC/ACC Joint Meetings at its resumed thirty-third session.

Conclusions and recommendations

249. The Committee agreed to the proposal of the Secretary-General to hold the twenty-seventh series of the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination at United Nations Headquarters on 27 October 1993.

250. The Committee noted the information provided by the representative of the Secretariat on actions taken by ACC and the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development to prepare for the joint meetings on the implications of the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development for the United Nations system.

251. In view of the importance of the joint meetings, the Committee reiterated that their format should be carefully reviewed in order to promote an informal dialogue between Member States and organizations of the United Nations system. Given the topic selected for the joint meetings, the Bureau of the Commission for Sustainable Development should be invited to take part in the meetings, which should focus on the institutional aspects of system-wide coordination and not go into the substance of Agenda 21.

V. CONSIDERATION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

252. In pursuance of paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 of 10 May 1979, and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 34/50 of 23 November 1979, the Committee shall submit to the Council and to the Assembly, for their review, the provisional agenda for its thirty-fourth session, together with the required documentation. In accordance with paragraph 8 of the annex to Council resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976, the thirty-fourth session of the Committee shall be of six weeks' duration.

253. At its 34th meeting, on 22 October 1993, the Committee considered the provisional agenda and the documentation for the thirty-fourth session on the basis of a note by the Secretariat (E/AC.51/1993/L.7).

254. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to submit to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, for their review, the following provisional agenda for its thirty-fourth session:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

3. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General (General Assembly resolution 45/254, para. 17).

4. Programme questions:

   (a) Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1992-1993;

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1992-1993.

   (b) Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997;

   Documentation

   Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

   (c) Outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997;

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on the outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 (General Assembly resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, and regulation 3.2 of the Regulations

and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation).

(d) Evaluation.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives (General Assembly resolutions 36/22B, 37/234, 38/227 A and B, 42/215, 43/219 and 45/253).

Report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the major programme on social development (A/48/16, part I, para. 35).

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of peace-keeping operations: start-up phase (A/48/16, part I, para. 35).

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development (A/48/16, part I, para. 35).

Report of the Secretary-General on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-first session on the evaluation of the development issues and policies programme: Economic Commission for Africa (E/AC.51/1993/6, para. 4).

5. Coordination questions: report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

Documentation

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1993.

Report of the Chairmen of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings of the two Committees.

6. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.

7. Provisional agenda for the thirty-fifth session of the Committee.

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirty-fourth session.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1), vols. I and II.

ANNEX I

Agenda for the second part of the thirty-third session of the Committee

1. Organization of work.

2. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

3. Programme questions:

   (a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995;

   (b) Prototype of a new format of the medium-term plan;

   (c) Establishment of a system of responsibility and accountability of programme managers of the United Nations.

4. Coordination questions: preparation for the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

5. Provisional agenda for the thirty-fourth session of the Committee.

6. Adoption of the report on the second part of its thirty-third session.

ANNEX II

List of documents before the Committee at the second part of its thirty-third session

Symbol		
A/48/6	Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995	
	Introduction and overview	
	Section 1	Overall policy-making, direction and coordination
	Section 2	United Nations integrated offices
	Section 3	Political affairs
	Section 4	Peace-keeping operations and special missions
	Section 7	Legal activities
	Section 8	Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development
	Section 9	Department of Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis
	Section 10	Department of Development Support and Management Services
	Section 11	International trade and development
	Section 12	Environment and human settlements
	Section 13	Crime control
	Section 14	International Drug Control
	Section 15	Economic Commission for Africa
	Section 16	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
	Section 17	Economic Commission for Europe
	Section 18	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
	Section 19	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
	Section 20	Regular programme of technical cooperation
	Section 21	Human rights

Symbol		
	Section 22	Protection of and assistance to refugees
	Section 23	Department of Humanitarian Affairs
	Section 24	Public Information
A/48/428		Report of the Secretary-General on the restructuring and efficiency of the Secretariat
A/48/281		Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the procedures for the provision of statements of programme budget implications and for the use and operation of the contingency fund
A/48/277		Prototype of a new format of the medium-term plan
A/48/452		Report of the Secretary-General on the establishment of a system of responsibility and accountability of programme managers of the United Nations
A/C.5/48/2		Note by the Secretary-General on procedures and norms for the creation, suppression, reclassification, conversion and redeployment of posts
E/AC.51/1993/1		Provisional agenda
E/AC.51/1993/L.4/Rev.1		Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation
E/AC.51/1993/L.5/Rev.1		Revised proposed programme of work
E/AC.51/1993/L.6 and Add.1-32		Adoption of the report of the Committee on the second part of its thirty-third session
E/AC.51/1993/L.7		Provisional agenda for the thirty-fourth session of the Committee
E/AC.51/1993/INF/2		List of delegations

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